

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 153124
ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-11 EUR-12 /029 R

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DRAFTED BY: A/SY/OPS/FO:WDCLARKE
APPROVED BY: A/SY/OPS/FO:PJHARRICK
A/SY/OPS/FO:MKDALTON
DESIRED DIST: NEA/ARN

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P 152355Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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FOR RSO; PASS TO AMBASSADOR PARKER

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 03300 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
NAIROBI, ATHENS, KARACHI, FRANKFURT 15 JUN 78

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 3300

DEPT FOR A/SY/OPS/FO, A/SY/OPS/T, A/OC/S, A/FBO, NEA/EX;
NAIROBI FOR RSS, ATHENS FOR OIC/TSO, KARACHI FOR CO, CO. "B",
RCO, FRANKFURT FOR OIC/RTC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, AVCE, AFSP
SUBJ: FIRE IN BEIRUT CHANCERY - DAMAGE REPORT

REF: A) BEIRUT 3255; B) ST. MARS/O'BRIEN TELCON 6"14"78

1. POST INITIAL ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE TO COM'S OFFICE AND
ADJACENT AREAS IS 25-30 THOUSAND DOLLARS. AT THIS POINT
ESTIMATE IS A BEST GUESS AND UNFORSEEN PROBLEMS MAY RAISE
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THIS FIGURE. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS ANY STRUC-
TURAL DAMAGE THE A/C EQUIPMENT ROOM WAS GUTTED AND THE COM'S
OFFICE AND ITS CONTENTS WERE HEAVILY DAMAGED BY INTENSE
HEAT AND SCORCHING. SECRETARIA AREA, DCM'S OFFICE WERE
DAMAGED BY SMOKE, HEAT AND WATER. RSO REQUESTS THE ASSISTANCE
OF TSO AND/OR SEABEE ASP TO ASSIST IN DETERMINING THE NEED
FOR A CON SEC TEAM.

2. AS REPORTED REFTAL (A) FIRE WAS LOCATED ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR OF THE CHANCERY IN A SMALL EQUIPMENT ROOM, CONTAINING TWO WINDOW TYPE AIR CONDITIONERS. ROOM IS SO LOCATED THAT THE AIR FROM THE A/C'S IS FORCED THROUGH TWO VENTS INTO COM'S OFFICE. APPARENTLY FIRE STARTED FROM A SHORT IN THE CONTROL WIRING OF ONE A/C. SPARKS IGNITED DEBRIS ON THE EQUIPMENT ROOM FLOOR AAMES SPREAD THROUGH WOODEN VENTS INTO COM'S OFFICE WHERE A LARGE GSA SOFA CAUGHT FIRE.

3. WHEN RSO ARRIVED ON SCENE AT APPROXIMATELY 0622 MSGS WERE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER EQUIPMENT ROOM TO PUT OUT FIRE WITH HAND HELD FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. THE INTENSE HEAT AND SMOKE PREVENTED US FROM BREAKING INTO THIS ROOM BECAUSE THE ROOF CONFIGURATION PRECLUDED ACCESS BY MORE THAN ONE MAN. AS A RESULT WE WERE FORCED TO CLIMB THE EXTERIOR LEDGES BETWEEN THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH FLOORS TO GET AT THE A/C'S AND ATTEMPT TO FORCE EXTINGUISHER NOZZELS THROUGH A/C OPENINGS. THIS WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL AS WE HAD TO FORM A HUMAN CHAIN TO PASS ALONG EXTINGUISHERS AND WE COULD NOT REACH THE FIRE'S SOURCE INSIDE THE EQUIPMENT ROOM.

4. BY THE TIME THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ARRIVED TWO MSGS WEARING SCOTT AIR PACKS HAD ENTERED THE COM'S OFFICE THROUGH THE HALLWAY BUT AGAIN BECAUSE OF THE INTENSE HEAT AND SMOKE WERE UNABLE TO ATTACK THE FIRE. RSO DIRECTED THESE MEN TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHDRAW AND ATTEMPT TO CONTAIN THE FIRE FROM THE HALLWAY WHICH THEY DID. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GOT A HOSE UP THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING FROM THEIR PUMPER TO A SMALL TERRACE OUTSIDE THE COM'S OFFICE AND EQUIPMENT ROOM. AS FIREMEN/MARINES/RSO ENTERED COM'S OFFICE TOGETHER THERE WAS NO COMPROMISE AND MSGS IMMEDIATELY SECURED CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. THE FIRE WAS EXTINGUISHED BY 0750 AND FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPARTED. MARINES REMAINED IN THESE OFFICES DURING REMAINDER OF DAY WHILE THE AREAS WERE CLEANED OUT, A SECURE PERIMETER WAS REESTABLISHED AND THE SUITE LOCKED OFF.

5. THE EQUIPMENT ROOM WAS ENTIRELY GUTTED, THE A/C'S DESTROYED WITH ALL WIRING. THE COM'S OFFICE WHILE NOT AS SEVERELY DAMAGED WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE REPAIR. OUR INTERIM REPAIR ESTIMATE OF THIS OFFICE IS AS FOLLOWS:

1) REPLACE WIRING; 2) REPLACE ACCOUSTIC TILE CEILING; 3) REPLACE ALL CEILING LIGHT FIXTURES; 4) REPLACE FURE, RUGS, CURTAINS; 5) REPLACE TERRACE DOOR.

THE SECRETARIAL AREA AND DCM OFFICE ALL SUFFERED DAMAGE AS A RESULT OF HEAT, SMOKE AND WATER. THE ENTIRE EIGHTH FLOOR SUITE WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE CLEANING AND REPAINTING.

6. RSO IS REQUESTING TSO/SEABEE ASSISTANCE TO DETERMINE FINAL
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND EXTENT A CON SEC TEAM WILL BE REQUIRED.

DECONTROL 12/31/78
LANE

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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